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REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 1-5, 9, and 14-24 under 35 USC 102 and 35 USC 103. The claims have been amended to correct various typographical errors.

The Examiner also indicated that claims 6-8 and 10-13 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In order to expedite allowance of the pending claims, Applicant has amended the claims in accordance with the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter. As such, Applicant respectfully asserts that claims 6-8 and 10-13 are allowable.

In addition, Applicant notes that Formal Drawings were previously submitted. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the objection to the drawings.

Applicant respectfully traverses the claim rejections below. Claims 9 and 17 have been cancelled. Claims 1-8, 10-16, and 18-24 remain pending.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested based on the following remarks.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 USC §102

In the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 1-5, 14, 15, 22-24 under 35 USC §102 as being anticipated by Basso et al., U.S. Pub. No. 2004/0174879, ('Basso' hereinafter). Applicant respectfully traverses this assertion.

In view of the claim amendments, Basso fails to disclose or suggest:
receiving a default route advertised by a network device providing one or more shared

services, wherein each of the shared services is available to each of the plurality of virtual private networks; and

updating each of a plurality of sets of routing information (e.g., routing tables) to include the default route to the network device providing one or more shared services available to each of the plurality of virtual private networks.

In fact, Basso fails to disclose or suggest the handling of shared services available to a plurality of virtual private networks in any manner. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 1-5, 14, 15, 22-24 under 35 USC 102.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 USC §103

In the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 9, and 17-21 under 35 USC §103 as being unpatentable over Basso in view of Rekhter et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,463,061, ('Rekhter' hereinafter). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claims 9 and 17 have been cancelled, and their limitations have been incorporated into claims 1 and 14, respectively.

The Examiner admits that Basso fails to explicitly show receiving a default route advertised by a network device providing one or more shared services available to each virtual private network; and updating each of the plurality of routing tables to include the default route to the network device providing one or more shared services available to each virtual private network.

The Examiner seeks to cure the deficiencies of Basso with Rekhter. However, it is important to note that Rekhter says nothing about shared services, where each of the shared services is available to each of the virtual private networks. As such, Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of the cited references would fail to achieve the desired result. In fact, FIG. 9 of Rekhter and cols. 30-31 of Rekhter clearly indicate that the PE1 and PE2 each separately update their per-VPN entry. However, entries associated with all of the

VPNs (e.g., VPN B) are not updated. More particularly, in this example, an entry for VPN B is not updated. Since Rekhter does not disclose shared services available to each of a plurality of virtual private networks, Rekhter need not update tables associated with each of the VPNs. As such, Applicant respectfully submits that Rekhter fails to disclose or suggest a solution to the handling of shared services. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of the cited references would fail to achieve the desired result.

In the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claim 16 under 35 USC §103 as being unpatentable over Basso in view of Kubota et al., U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0142669, ('Kubota' hereinafter). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Applicant respectfully asserts that Kubota fails to cure the deficiencies of the primary references. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully asserts that claim 16 is patentable over the cited references.

The dependent claims depend from one of the independent claims and are therefore patentable for at least the same reasons. However, the dependent claims recite additional limitations that further distinguish them from the cited references. The additional limitations recited in the independent claims or the dependent claims are not further discussed, as the above discussed limitations are clearly sufficient to distinguish the claimed invention from the cited references. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of the claims under 35 USC §103(a).

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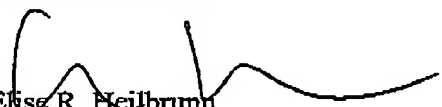
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SUMMARY

If there are any issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through either a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Applicants hereby petition for an extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee for such extension or any further fee required in connection with the filing of this Amendment is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0388 (Order No. CISCP340).

Respectfully submitted,
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